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Kimberly Topper
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
(HFD-21)
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fisher's Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

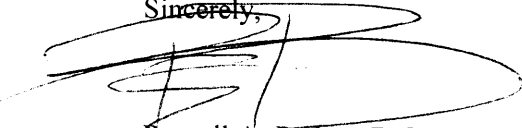
Dear Ms. Topper:

My name is Russ Parker and I am an osteopathic physician. I am Board certified in family practice, but my practice is limited solely to the treatment of patient's with various types of pain disorders. It has been brought to my attention that an Advisory Panel meeting of the FDA will be meeting soon to discuss the use of opoid analgesics in the treatment of non-cancer chronic pain.

In my practice, I utilize a variety of modalities from manipulation and acupuncture to non-opioid medications and a fair amount of narcotic medications in an attempt to treat my patients' pain. I feel that it is imperative that, as physicians, we approach pain as a disease rather than taking the old tack of blaming the patient for their pain syndrome. Admittedly, there are problems with drug diversion, but this represents a very small number of the patients with which we have contact. Chronic pain is a devastating physiologic and psychologic condition which is challenging for all clinicians who would dare to tread into this arena of medicine. The last thing that we need is more government regulation of the American Academy of Pain Management. Let us decide what is best for our patients.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter, and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Russell A. Parker, D.O.

RAP/vmc